

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T RABAT 4441

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS
TAGS: MASS MO CG
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN PARTICIPATION IN SHABA PEACEKEEPING FORCE

1. SUMMARY: DURING JULY 21 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS, KING HASSAN REVEALED HE IS SENDING AN ADDITIONAL 500 SOLDIERS TO JOIN SHABA PEACEKEEPING FORCE, AND HE REITERATED MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL U. S. ASSISTANCE. SAUNDERS REPLIED THAT U.S. APPRECIATES WHAT MOROCCO IS DOING IN SHABA AND HAS REQUEST UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. STATING HE COULD NOT RELY ON FAZ OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SHABA PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO PROTECT THE MOROCCAN CONTINGENT, NOR EXPOSE HIS TROOPS TO THE DANGER OF SLAUGHTER, HASSAN SAID HE HAD DECIDED JULY 18 TO SEND AN ADDITIONAL 500 MEN TO SHABA, EQUIPPED WITH JEEPS, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, MORTARS AND COMMUNICATIONS GEAR. OUTLINING HIS MOTIVE FOR PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, KING STATED HE DISPATCHED HIS TROOPS TO SUPPORT TRADITIONAL VALUES, NOT TO PROTECT WESTERN ECONOMIC INTERESTS, NOR AS A "FAVOR TO MOBUTU."

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3. RETURNING TO THE SUBJECT LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, KING SAID MOROCCAN CONTINGENT HAD BECOME QUARTERMASTER FOR ENTIRE PEACEKEEPING FORCE, EXPENDING IN ONE MONTH RATIONS BROUGHT TO MAINTAIN MOROCCAN TROOPS FOR TWO. EXPLAINING HE HAD "NOT RECEIVED A CENT" FOR HIS GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS, HASSAN SAID HE "WAS WILLING TO BE EVERYONE'S COOK, BUT DID NOT WANT TO GET

HIS FINGERS BURNED." THE KING SAID GISCARD HAD AGREED THAT MOROCCO SHOULD BE REIMBURSED FOR THE EXPENSE IT IS INCURRING AND HAD SUGGESTED THE MOST APPROPRIATE MODALITY WOULD BE FOR FUNDS TO BE DEPOSITED IN ZAIRE'S CENTRAL BANK AND THEN PASSED ALONG TO THE MOROCCANS. HASSAN EXPLAINED TO SAUNDERS THAT GOM EXPECTED TO BE REPAID FOR FOOD AND OTHER EXPENDED SUPPLIES, BUT NOT FOR SALARIES OF MOROCCAN SOLDIERS.

4. IN RESPONDING, SAUNDERS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MOROCCAN ROLE IN SHABA AND SAID U.S. KEENLY AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS FROM AFGHANISTAN TO ANGOLA. HE NOTED THAT ACTING ON BASIS OF SHARED OBJECTIVES, U.S. WAS RESPONDING VIA ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO THREATS TO PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA WHILE MOROCCO TOOK ON THIS TASK IN ZAIRE. HE INFORMED HASSAN THAT THE SUBJECT OF REIMBURSEMENT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS WITH THE SECRETARY IN LONDON, WHO HAD SAID TO TELL THE KING THAT U.S. WAS LOOKING INTO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

5. ACTION SUGGESTED: SAUNDERS SUGGESTS THAT AF DRAFT PARA-GRAPH FOR INCLUSION MONDAY IN MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO HASSAN ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS RAISED DURING SAUNDERS-HASSAN MEETING.
ANDERSON

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